

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

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P 161655Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7737

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MOFFETT, TOBY/MILLER, GEORGE/HARKIN, TOM)

SUBJECT: CODEL MOFFETT

1. SUMMARY: CODEL MOFFETT SPENT FIVE AND ONE-HALF DAYS IN CHILE MEETING RANGE OF LOCAL FIGURES. GOC WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL LEIGH. CODEL ALSO MET CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND SEVERAL PRISONERS/DETAINEES. THEY MET TWICE WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. THEY AVOIDED LOCAL PRESS AND GAVE NO NEWS CONFERENCES. IN LAST DAY'S RUSH CODEL CANCELLED APPOINTMENTS ON SHORT NOTICE WITH MINISTER INTERIOR BENAVIDES AND SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EZYAGUIRRE. PAIR TOOK UMBRAGE AT WHAT THEY CONSIDERED DISCOURTESY AND MADE DISPLEASURE KNOWN TO EMBASSY. (SEPTTEL).
END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSIONAL GROUP LED BY REPRESENTATIVE MOFFETT ARRIVED SANTIAGO MIDDAY MARCH 10, ADVANCING SCHEDULING BY FULL DAY. DELEGATION POSTPONED MEETING WITH MINISTER JUSTICE SCHWEITZER AND PRISON VISIT WHICH FOREIGN OFFICE ARRANGED ON SHORT NOTICE FOR THAT AFTERNOON IN ORDER PREPARE FOR REST OF TRIP. THEY MET THAT AFTERNOON WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM FOR HOUR AND ONE-HALF SESSION OF INFORMAL DISCUSSION.

3. CODEL HELD LENGTHY MEETING WITH SCHWEITZER MORNING OF MARCH 11, VISITED PRISONS MIDDAY. REST OF SCHEDULE SET UP BY JOE ELDRIDGE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CODEL'S EXPRESSED DESIRE. OFFICIAL MEETINGS WERE HELD MARCH 12: WITH GENERAL LEIGH
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FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS BEGINNING 9:45; NEW LABOR MINISTER

FERNANDEZ IN LATE AFTERNOON; CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT EARLY AFTERNOON; AND FINANCE MINISTER CAUAS IN EARLY EVENING.

4. SATURDAY, MARCH 12, CODEL SPLIT UP, WITH ONE GROUP HEADING SOUTH AND EXPLORING AGRICULTURAL SCENE, INCLUDING SEVERAL "ASENTAMIENTOS" (LAND REFORM GROUP HOLDINGS). TRIP WAS GUIDED BY LOCAL PRIEST. OTHERS STAYED IN AND AROUND SANTIAGO, AND HELD SESSION WITH NUTRITION EXPERT AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE. SUNDAY DELEGATION OUT OF TOWN, RETURNING FOR LONG WRAP UP SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM AND POL CONS IN EVENING.

5. OCT 15 GROUP MET WITH CARDINAL SILVA AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS AS ARRANGED BY ELDRIDGE.

6. DURING THEIR VISIT, CONGRESSMEN HAD OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT CAPUCHINO PRISON ANNEX WHERE MET CARLOS CARBACHO (AIR FORCE OFFICER CONVICTED IN 1974 AIR FORCE TRIAL) AND NUMBER OF OTHER CHILEANS PRISONERS, AS WELL AS JOHN CERRETTI, AMCIT SERVING SENTENCE ON NARCOTICS CHARGE. GROUP ALSO MET WITH WIVES OF NUMBER OF PERSONS BEING HELD AT TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER, BUT COULD NOT MEET WITH PRISONERS MONDAY EVENING BECAUSE OF TIGHT SCHEDULE. CODEL APPROACHED BY PRESS BUT GAVE NO CONFERENCES. THEY DID MEET WITH AP REPRESENTATIVE AND NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT.

7. PRESIDENT PINOCHET WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH GROUP. WE WERE TOLD HE WAS BOOKED UP. THEY HAD ASKED TO SEE DINA CHIEF CONTRERAS, BUT HE WAS ONLY AVAILABLE SATURDAY MORNING WHEN NOT CONVENIENT TO CODEL, WHICH WAS OUT OF TOWN AT TIME.

8. CODEL'S SCHEDULING WAS ARRANGED BY NUMBER OF PARTIES AND OVERLAP ALMOST INEVITABLE. FOREIGN MINISTRY, LARGELY IN RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC FROM AMBASSADOR TRUCCO IN WASHINGTON, ASSIGNED VIRTUALLY FULL-TIME CONTROL OFFICER WHO DID BEST TO MEET CONGRESSMEN'S REQUESTS AND FILL THEIR TIME. CODEL PURSUED EXCEPTIONALLY ACTIVE PROGRAM, ONLY PART OF WHICH CAME TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION.

9. PRESS COVERAGE DURING ACTUAL VISIT MINIMAL. "EL MERCURIO" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCH 13 EDITORIALIZED WITH HOPE THAT CODEL WOULD APPROACH CHILEAN SITUATION WITH OPEN MIND. "TERCERA" NEWS ITEM DESCRIBED TRIP AS "MYSTERIOUS" AFTER CONGRESSMEN DENIED INTERVIEW.

10. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOC HAD STEELED ITSELF FOR UNFRIENDLY CONGRESSMEN, CHILEAN LEADERS SEEMINGLY FAILED TO APPRECIATE SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES CODEL PLANNED TO

UNDERTAKE. WE NOTED SOME GOC UNHAPPINESS BY 15TH OVER
NUMBER AND RANGE OF CONTACTS WITH DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION,
CLERGY AND FAMILIES OF PRISONERS.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA02109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760099-0023
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760356/aaaabxdl.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MOFFETT
TAGS: OREP, (MILLER, GEORGE), (HARKIN, TOM), (MOFFETT, ANTHONY TOBY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006